

CHIEF DAVID BOYETT

YEARS OF SERVICE | 1971-1995

This month, we reflect on the work and many innovations of Chief David Boyett, the 15th Chief of Police for the Norman Police Department, during his 24 year tenure.

BOYETT'S START AT NPD

David Boyett joined the Norman Police Department as an officer in 1971 after graduating from the University of Oklahoma. Boyett started his career as a foot patrol beat officer in the Campus Corner area of Norman. Between the years of 1971-1974, Boyett became a field training officer and then transitioned from a foot patrol officer to a traffic enforcement unit. Boyett was one of three traffic enforcement units that focused on traffic safety around the city. Boyett also became a hit and run traffic collision investigator and taught classes at the Norman Police Academy.

BOYETT'S CONSISTENT IMPACT AS A LEADER

In 1974, Boyett was promoted to Patrol Supervisor and served as a Sergeant through 1975. A uniformed patrol supervisor for night shift, Boyett's duties included police report reviews, activity reporting, counseling and on scene command.

In 1975, Boyett was promoted to Lieutenant and became the shift commander in the Uniformed Patrol Division. Boyett had the responsibility of personnel scheduling and allocation of police personnel. Boyett also led coordination of traffic and crowd control for all home OU football games. Boyett had the privilege of providing a broadcast pre-game and post-game including live helicopter traffic reports for a local radio station. The helicopter was also used to track drunk drivers and hit and run accidents.

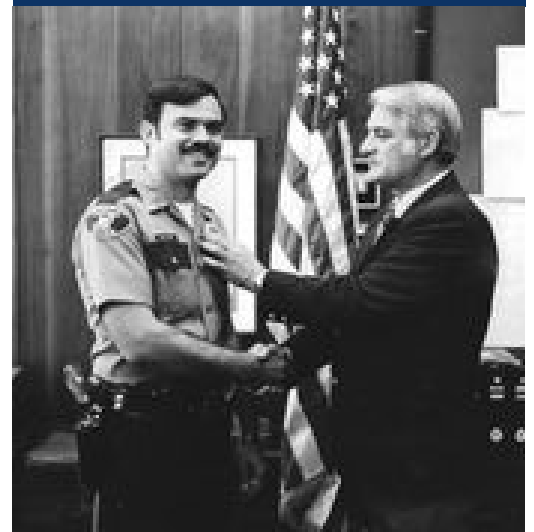
Under his leadership, Lt. Boyett also took command over a bankrupt ambulance service and formed a new Emergency Medical Services Division in the police department. Leading the design of the program, Boyett also hired all of the department's EMS personnel who were EMTs and later cross trained as commissioned police officers. Boyett is especially proud of the 1978 state ambulance competition where the Norman Police Emergency Medical Service took first place.

In 1979, Boyett was promoted to Captain and transferred to administrative services. Boyett coordinated the recruitment and conducted interviews for a new EMS Director before transferring to his new role as Chief of Detectives in the department's Investigative Bureau.



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- Bill Pendergraft, Retired NPD Captain





As Chief of Detectives, Captain Boyett developed the first case management system for the police department which tracked detective performance, case assignment, and case closures.

In 1982, Boyett was promoted to Major. As a major, Boyett served as the commander of the department's Operations Bureau, which included both the Patrol and Investigation Divisions. Major Boyett was in charge of operation expenditures, where he monitored overtime, bureau performance and efficacy.



Boyett went on to oversee the department's Administrative Services where he led budget preparation, in-service training, the Norman Police Academy, department training, dispatch, planning and personnel. Boyett also worked as a part-time instructor at the University of Oklahoma in the College of Continuing Education where he taught police budgeting, criminal investigations, advanced computer applications, and conflict resolution.

In 1986, Boyett was assigned to the role of Assistant Chief through a reorganization into a public safety department that placed the city's police and fire services under a Director of Public Safety. A newly created position during the department's organization, Assistant Chief Boyett took on the role of drafting grants, writing publications, and analysis of patrol services and officer workload. Boyett also completed cost studies of police operations and delivery of services overseeing the development of performance-based indicators for police services.

BOYETT'S TENURE AS CHIEF

In 1988, Boyett was named the department's 15th Chief of Police. It is under his leadership that innovate policing would begin to thrive with the implementation of a number of new programs and philosophies.

In September 1989, Chief Boyett created the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) resulting in nine part-time community volunteers that would help with administrative duties around the police department and one part-time volunteer to help in the City Clerk's Office. Chief Boyett also established a specialized traffic enforcement unit in March 1989 to address impaired driving and other dangerous driving behaviors impacting the Norman community. The program Remove Intoxicated Drivers (RID) Unit was funded by the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office.

In 1990, Chief Boyett created the Individual Assigned Vehicles (IAV) or take home vehicle program. This program lowered patrol unit vehicle maintenance costs and boosted department morale. A commendation and awards program for the department was also established.



In July of that year, Chief Boyett also championed the establishment a Street Crimes Unit. Utilizing crime analysis and insights from the community, the unit created a new method of addressing crime in Norman. The program was funded through a grant from the United States Department of Justice. Chief Boyett also created a Crime Analysis Unit to track police calls for service and crimes.

With the introduction of a community policing philosophy in 1993, Chief Boyett brought a new police philosophy, management style, and organizational strategy which helped solve community problems to the Norman Police Department including implementation of a bicycle patrol. The first Citizens Police Academy was also implemented to increase community education and awareness of the police services in Norman.

Chief Boyett would also go on to create the first Internal Affairs (IA) Unit that same year. IA was tasked with investigating citizen complaints while enhancing oversight and accountability. An initiative furthered by the installation of mobile video/audio recording (MVR) equipment to help document police contacts with citizens.

In 1994, Chief Boyett was able to increase the departments staffing by 8% using two community policing grants. Despite all of his innovations as a department leader, Chief Boyett cited adequate and consistent funding as his greatest challenge while serving the City of Norman.

Chief Boyett retired from the Norman Police Department in 1995 after 24 years of service. Chief Boyett continued his career as Chief of Police in Sunrise, Florida, and then after retirement, he joined the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's Office in Tampa as a death investigator, retiring in 2019.

Chief Boyett is currently retired and living in Florida. His fondest memory was working with the local radio station during OU football games in Norman to give firsthand traffic broadcasts live from a helicopter.



KEY INNOVATIONS

- MOVED NORMAN'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) TO NPD
- IMPLEMENTED FIRST CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
- DEVELOPED NPD'S FIRST PERFORMANCE BASED INDICATORS
- LED DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING
- IMPLEMENTED COMMUNITY POLICING MODEL
- STARTED NPD'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (VIPS)
- INITIATED THE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT
- INTEGRATED THE USE OF MOBILE / VIDEO AUDIO RECORDING TECHNOLOGY TO POLICING & CRIME SCENE PROCESSING
- STARTED NPD'S RID PROGRAM
- IMPLEMENTED THE TAKE HOME VEHICLE PROGRAM
- STARTED THE DEPARTMENT AWARD PROGRAM
- DEVELOPED THE STREET CRIMES UNIT
- INTRODUCED THE USE OF CRIME ANALYSIS FOR PROBLEM-SOLVING AND ENFORCEMENT
- BEGAN THE USE OF BIKE PATROLS
- DEVELOPED THE FIRST CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
- INITIATED THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

WORDS FROM THOSE WHO WORKED ALONGSIDE CHIEF BOYETT

RETIREED NORMAN POLICE CAPTAIN | BILL PENDERGRAFT

Bill Pendergraft remembered Chief Boyett as a progressive and innovative leader that was never afraid to take a chance. Pendergraft recalled that Chief Boyett authorized him and Robert Post to research the take home car policy to see if Norman Police Department was a good fit for this program. Pendergraft advised he and Post extensively researched the program and provided Boyett with the results of their research. Pendergraft advised that he and Post found that by comparing maintenance cost and vehicle longevity, that take home cars were maintained far better than fleet cars which extended the useable life of the vehicle. Chief Boyett approved the program which was a huge boost to longer vehicle life and durability and for officer morale.



City winner in state competition

A Norman ambulance crew took first place in an annual competition among emergency medical personnel from around the state this past week. The team of five officers and Paramedics, with the Norman Police Ambulance, Len Greenleaf, Police Chief Don Hayfield, Wes Barber, Police Lt. Dave Boyett, and John Taylor, won the first place trophy. The winner was awarded a trophy and a plaque. The ambulance crew was also named 'Ambulance of the Year' by the Oklahoma State Ambulance Association. The award was presented to the crew by the association's president, Bill Pendergraft. The crew consists of Police Officers Wes Barber, John Taylor, and John Greenleaf, and Paramedics Dave Boyett and Don Hayfield. The ambulance is a 1978 Ford F-Series, equipped with a variety of medical equipment. The crew has been serving the community for several years and has a reputation for being professional and efficient. The award is a recognition of their hard work and dedication to the community.



RETIREED IDENTIFICATION SPECIALIST | LARRY PETERS

Chief Boyett was a good chief and he and I often saw eye to eye on things. He was one of the agency's better chiefs. We worked well together and our relationship was very respectful and professional. I remember when the Chief researched early video camera models and he bought a new video camera to test when they first came out. Chief videotaped everyone around the police department, and we eventually began using video to document crime scenes. We would photograph the crime scene and videotape it as well. Not many police agencies were videotaping crime scenes at that time. We were on the cutting edge for that and Chief Boyett was the innovative force behind it. Chief Boyett was responsible for hiring the agencies first Crime Analyst to assist in mapping crime locations and trends.